Research assistance from Canada

998. DR. CHATTRAPAL SINGH LODHA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to seek assistance from Canada in the field of research;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any discussion has been held between both the countries in this regard; and

(d) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) (a) to (d): No, Sir. However, India and Canada have concluded an inter-govermental agreement at Toronto on 18th November, 2005 facilitating joint scientific and technological cooperation. Nano-Science and Nano-Technology; sustainable Energy; Biomedical Technologies; Infortainment; and Natural Disasters & Earth Science have been identifies as priority areas of cooperation.

By-Passess on National Highways in Punjab

999. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the proposed by-passes being constructed on National Highways in Punjab; and

(b) the status in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Names and status of proposed by-passes are given in the Statement.

Statement

By pass on National Highway in Punjab

Sl.No.	NH	Section	Name of by-passes	Status
1.	21	Chandigarh-Kiratpur	Kharar Kurail	Updation of DPR is taken up & BOT bids to be invited
2.	15	Amritsar-Pathankot	Dinanagar Dhariwal Batala Kathunangal Verka	DPR in progress.